



**North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services  
Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Services**

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Michael F. Easley, Governor  
Dempsey Benton, Secretary

Michael S. Lancaster, M.D. and  
Leza Wainwright, Directors

April 15, 2008

**TO:** LME Directors

**FROM:** Leza Wainwright

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "LW", written over the name "Leza Wainwright".

**RE:** Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Related  
Admissions in Community Emergency Departments, Second Quarter SFY 2007-08

Enclosed please find the second quarterly report of the *Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse Related Admissions in Community Emergency Departments Report, 2007-08*. The present report is in response to G.S. 122C-147.1. Section 10.49(r) "The Department of Health and Human Services shall develop a system for reporting to LMEs aggregate information regarding all visits to community hospital emergency departments due to a mental illness, a developmental disability, or a substance abuse disorder. The report shall be submitted on a quarterly basis beginning with the 2007-2008 fiscal years." The report covers information for the second quarter of SFY 2008.

The data presented in this report has been collected through the North Carolina Disease Event Tracking and Epidemiologic Collection Tool (NC DETECT). The system was created by the North Carolina Division of Public Health (NC DPH) in 2004 to address the need for early detection and timely public health surveillance in North Carolina using a variety of secondary data sources. As of January 2008, there are 109 hospitals reporting production level data to the NC DETECT system.

The data presented in the report showcase the volume of individuals with a mental health or substance abuse diagnosis seeking care from an emergency department of a community hospital. While information is available through NC DETECT on admissions for consumers with a developmental disability diagnosis, the counts were too small to be presented in this report for all LMEs except Wake. The Division is encouraging LMEs to contact hospitals within their catchment area and build relationships at the local level to understand the data presented further and to develop mechanisms to address the issues related to access to services.

If you have any questions on the data presented in this report, please send them via electronic mail to [ContactDMHQuality@ncmail.net](mailto:ContactDMHQuality@ncmail.net)

Cc: Secretary Dempsey Benton  
Dan Stewart  
Executive Leadership Team  
Management Leadership Team  
State Facility Directors  
Patrice Roesler  
Yvonne Copeland  
MH Commission Chair  
The Coalition Chair

SCFAC Chair  
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